ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SHELBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT

ENON CHURCH,

BIBB COUNTY, ALA.

FROM THE 10th to the 13th OCT., 1857.

CENTREVILLE, ALABAMA:
PRINTED AT THE CENTRAL ENQUIRER JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
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MINUTES.

The Ministers and Delegates, comprising the Shelby Baptist Association, convened with Enon Church, Bibb County, Ala., on Saturday the 10th of October 1857.

The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. C. Hand, from John, 15th chapt., and 12th verse.

After a short recess, the Delegates present assembled in the Meeting House, and were called to order by the appointment of Elder Noah Haggard, Moderator, and Wm. J. Peters Clerk protem, (the former moderator and clerk being absent.)

Prayer by the Modertor.

Letters from the Churches composing this Association were then called for, received, read, and the names of Delegates enrolled. The following are the names of the Delegates.

CHURCHES. DELEGATES.

Beaver Creek.—David Gould.
Bethesda.—J. Teague, J. K. H. Carden.
Beulah.—J. S. Duyck, Henly Webster.
Liberty.—J. G. Walton, Wm. Armstrong.
Spring Creek.—No representation.
Union.—Wm. Wyatt, Wm. Lucos, H. W. Bowers.
Serrepta.—L. M. Jones, J. C. Hvnd, Jordan Jones.
Shoal Creek.—Hiram Holscomback, S. J. Perry.
Providence.—Wm. J. Peters.
Cahaba.—Garland Jones.
Enon.—J. F. Brazil, Allen Brazil, Charles Collier, D. L. Brown, Charles Corley.
Freedoe.—Not represented.
Mt, Pleasant.—Letter, by James Truss.
Cahaba Valley.—T. L. Miles, H. F. Fancher.
M. Pisgah.—Jvmes Truss.
Montevallo.—E. King, N. Haggard.

A door was then opened for the reception of Churches newly constituted, or dismissed from other Associations into this body.—Whereupon the Columbiana Church was received by letter and petition presented by her delegate, Samuel Clabough. Also Pleasant Hill Church was received by letter and petition, presented by her delegates, W. T. Rogers and J. S. Pickens.

The Association then proceeded to the election of a Modorator and Clerk, which resulted in the election of Elder J. C. Hand, Moderator and Wm. J. Peters Clerk.

Visting brethren were then invited to seats with us.

Correspondence was then called for, whereupon a letter and Minutes were received from the Mulbery Association by J. R. Fulgum and O. Langston. Also from the Canaan Association, a letter and

Minutes by Elders A. J. Waldroup and A. C. Thomason. Also from the Unity, a letter and Minutes by Elder D. M. Lloyd. Appointed brethren, King, Carden and the Delegates from Enon Church a committee to arrange preaching during the session of the Association.

The committee on preaching appointed brother Rogers to preach to night at the Meeting House, and brother Thomason to preach at half past 9 o'clock on Sabbath morning. Brother HAND to follow with the Missionary Sermon, and brother Waldroup to preach in the afternoon.

The following brethren were appointed a committee to arrange business for the Association, viz: S. Clabough, E. King, Jordan Jones, D. L. Brown and J. G. Walton.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

On Sabbath the services were conducted by the persons named by the committee in the order named. At the conclusion of the Missionary sermon by brother Hand, a collection was taken up for Missionary purposes in the bounds of the Association, amounting to twenty dollars and eighty cents. One dollar was received on Monday morning.

Monday morning the Association met according to adjournment and after singing and prayer, by the Moderator, proceeded to call the roll and mark absentees.

Moved and Carried that the names of the absent Delegates be omited in these minutes.

The following committees were appointed:

On Finance.—H. W. Bowers and Lawrence Jones.

On Documents.—J. H. K. Carden, S. Clabough and Jordan Jones.

Appointed the following brethren as correspondence to other Associations; to Canaan, T. E. Maroney, W. T. Rogers, James Truss and T. L. Miles; to Coosa River, J. P. Fulmer, W. H. Inzer, W. C. Carrol, J. D. Teague and J. C. Hand; to Cahaba, Noah Haggard, J. F. Brazil, Allen Brazil, and H. F. Fancher; to Mulbery, J. C. Hand, J. F. Brazil, Noah Haggard, J. G. Walton and Allen Brazil; to Unity, Allen Brazil, J. G. Walton, Noah Haggard, J. C. Hand and J. F. Brazil.

Appointed bronther Haggard to write correspondence to Unity Association.

Appointed the next Association to be held with Liberty Church nine miles north of Columbiana, to commence on Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October 1858.

Appointed J. G. Walton to preach the next introductory sermon, J. D. Teague alternate; J. D. Teague to preach the Missionary sermon, and W. H. Carrol alternate.

The corresponding letter to the Unity Association was presented and received.

The committee on Finance reported as sent up by the Churches and received by them for Minutes $22,50 cts. and for Associational purposes $17,50 cts. for Indian Missions $4,75 cts. for Home Missions, $1,95 cts. which report was received and said Committee discharged; said sums being paid over to the Treasurer, E. King having been appointed Treasurer.

The committee on Documents report that they have had the same under consideration and would recommend to the favorable consideration of this body, the various benevolent operations of our sister Associations, especially the State Ala., and E. Ala. Conventions, to each of which we would recommend the appointment of Delegates; and further, that we, as a body, should co-operate with the Southern Publication in the distribution of Religious Literature; and we would further recommend the patronage of the South Western Baptist, published at Tuskegee, Ala., and the Tennessee Baptist, published at Nashville Tenn.

JORDAN JONES, Chairman.

The Clerk was directed to superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that he retain ten dollars for his services, that six hundred Minutes be printed, and that one hundred copies be reserved for correspondence.

Ordered that the amount sent up for Minutes and Associational purposes (which is 39,75 cts.) be paid into the hands of the Clerk.

An opportunity being given to brother Waldroup to present the claims of the E. Ala.,¾Convention; he did so ni a short and appropriate address. After which the Association made up ten dollars and sent the following Delegates to the adjourned meeting of that body, which is to meet at Mt. Zion Church, Talladega county, on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in Nov. 1857: also to the next annual meeting which is on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in May, 1858: At Jacksonville, Benton county, •E. King, J. Clabough, N. Haggard, L. Jones, Jordan Jones, W. H. Carrol, J. D. Teague, W. J. Peters, Samuel Truss, and J.F. Brazil, E. King to write.

Adjourned until Tuesday morning, 9 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment on Tuesday morning.

Prayer by brother Truss.

On motion, *Resolved,* That we pay a balance due brother J. D. Teague for services rendered as Missionary in 1855, and that the thing be laid before the Churches by the Delegates.

Resolved: That the Delegates lay before the Churches the subject of Home Missions, and request the Churches to send up the amount they are willing to contribute to the next Association.

Resolved: That brother J. C. Hand be requested to pay to brother J. D. Teague, ten dollars, the sum brother Hand conditionally subscribed at Providence, for Indian and Domestic Missions, and

that brother E. King be requested to receipt brother Hand for the same.

A querry by brother Haggard was introbuced, whether a member of our church be in disorder by communing with other denominations.

Ans. Yes.

What shall be done with a member thus offending?

Ans. Deal with him as with other public offenders.

The motion made by brother Webster at last Association, and continued to this, to amend the first article of the Constitution, was taken up, considered and lost.

A motion was made by brother Truss, and carried, to strike out the word United, in the 3d article of the Constitution.

Resolved: That we recommend each Church to appoint one member to collect funds for Missionary purposes, in the bounds of the Associations, and send the same up to the next Association.

Resolved: That the Constitution, Abstract of Principles, and Rules of Decorum of this Association be reprinted in these Minutes.

Resolved: That this Association tender its thanks to the brethren at Enon, and to the citizens, who have bestowed so generously their attention and hospitality.

Resolved: That this Associatiou now adjourn to the time and place above mentioned. J. C. HAND, Moderator,

W. J. PETERS, Clerk.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Shelby Associaton: To her sister Associations with whom she corresponds, sendeth Christian Salutation:

Dear Brethren: Receive this, our letter, with our Minutes and messengers, as a token of our Christian regard toward you and the expression of our wish to continue a correspondence with you.—Harmony and Love have attended our session. The presence of your messengers and good news communicated by your letters are cheering.

The next session of our body will be held with Liberty Church, nine miles north of Columbiana, Shelby county, commencing Saturday before the 2d Sabbath in October next.

WM. J. PETERS, Clerk. J. C. HAND, Moderator.

CONSTITUTION.

1st. The members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union, shall compose the Association, but in making appointments or assigning duties to be performed, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to any such duty any ordained minister whether in the bounds, or belonging to any church in the body, though said minister be not a delegate to this body.

2. The members so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be called the SHELBY ASSOCIATION of Baptist Churches.

4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to "Lord it over God's heritage," nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches, but shall have power to exclude from the union, any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who fails to represent herself at one Association, and refuses to account for it at the next.

5. If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction, and if she fails of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if satisfaction connot be obtained, it shall be the duty of the agrieved church to lay the matter before the Association to be decided on according to its merits:—And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which after due labor, she cannot reconcile, she shall call to her aid two or more churches of her union, to assist her in her work; and if the difficulty be not then removed, it shall be the duty of the church to bring the case to the Association, to be acted on as above prescribed. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued.

6. Any church desiring admittance into this union, shall petition by letter and messengers, and if found orthodox, shall be received by the Association through the moderator's giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and one for every additional fifty over fifty.

8. Any church in our union shall have the power to license members to preach the Gospel, and report the same to our next body, and in all ordinations we recommend a presbytery of two or more, and report to the next Association.

9. No query shall be taken under consideration in the Association except when cases of serious difficulty are likely to arise, and cannot be settled by the church nor by the assistance of other

churches which they shall call upon, then if not settled they may send it to the Association.

10. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution she may deem expedient.

11. This Association shall have power to elect a Moderator and Clerk of her own body.

12. Any amendment may be made to this plan or form of constitution at any time, when two thirds of the Association may deem it expedient.

13. Any church wishing a letter of dismission, shall make application therefor by letter.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1st. We believe there is only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God and the only proper rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe that election is the gracious and eternal purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy, that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel is the foundation of christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and that man is incapable of recovering himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

6 We believe that Baptism and the Lord's supper, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of the ordinances, and that Immersion only is christian baptism.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgement, and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the impenitent sinner, will be etenal.

8. We believe that no minister should administer the ordinances of the Gospel, only such as are called, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in full fellowship with the church of which he is a member.

9. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a scriptural right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretional right to call to order at any time.

4. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed; which permission shall be signified by the moderator's naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, and every motion made and seconded (in order) shall come under the consideration of the Association, and be decided on, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on, or withdrawn before an other shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up and sufficient time allowed for debate, the moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and those in the affirmative of the question, shall signify the same by standing up, then if need be, reverse the question, and pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

9. The Association shall be governed in all cases by a majority, except in the reception and exclusion of Churches, which shall be by two-thirds at least, of the members present.

10. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition, without leave of the Association, nor more than three times without the concurrence of three-fourths of the members, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject untill the debates have been carried through.

11. The appellation of brother, shall be used in the Association by members in their addresses to one another.

12. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the moderator.

13. The names of the delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which has a tendency to interrupt public speaking.

15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of

speaking as any other, provided he appoints another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved, at the discretion of the moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

17. These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and may be altered or amended when two-thirds of the members present, at any anual meeting, shall deem it necessary.

Resolved. That the moderator appoint committees for the transaction of any business that may come before our body from time to time; but the alteration and number of each committee shall be by consent of this body.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total Number.	Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	Sabbath of meeting.	PASTORS.
First District—BEAVER CREEK	Shelby.				9		1	27	50	50		
BETHESDA	"	6		1	4			45	$ 2,00	$ 1,50	3	J. N. Scott.
BEULAH	"	1	2		4	3		27	2,00	2,00		T. P. Holcomb.
LIBRTY	"	2	13		3	4		106	2,00	2,00	1	T. P. Holcomb.
SPRING CREEK	"											
MOUNT PISGAH	St. Clair Co.	2	11		2	1		22	1,00	70	1	J. P. Fulmer.
MOUNT PLEASANT	"		5	1	10			41	1,00		3	H. W. Inzer.
COLUMBIANA	Shelby.	3	12				2	22	1,50	1,50	4	W. H. Carrol.
PLEASANT HILL	"	16	18					40	1,50	2,00		E. T. Akins.
Sec'd District—UNION	"		7		3	5	1	52	1,50	1,00	4	James Grimes.
SERREPTA	"		3		2	1		21	1,00	1,00	2	J. C. Hand.
SHOAL CREEK	"		2		8			64	1,00	1,00		James Grimes.
PROVIDENCE	"	1	7			1	1	48	2,00	1,00		J. F. Brazil.
CAHABA VALLEY	Bibb.	3	1		9	1	3	73	1,00	2,00	1	J. F. Brazil.
ENON	"	2	1			3	1	78	2,00	1,00	2	D. M. Lloyd.
FREEDOM	Shelby.											
MONTEVALLO	"	2	10					23	1,00	1,00	3	W. H. Carrol.
CAHABA	"		3	1	3	1		14	50			J. G. Walton.